

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36, claim 1, wherein the slot is situated between the two walls.
3. (Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36, claim 1, wherein the walls have an elongate shape with a longitudinal axis that is substantially parallel to the axis of the slot.
4. (Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36, claim 1, wherein the slot is entirely separate from the opening.
5. (Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36, claim 1, wherein the slot is situated substantially opposite from the opening.
6. (Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36, claim 1, wherein a cross-section of the applicator element is substantially shaped as at least one of a V-shape, a C-shape, a U-shape and a W-shape; and
wherein at least one slot is formed through a bottom of a concave portion of the V-, C-, U-, or W-shape.
7. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 6, the walls defining a U-shaped cross-section, wherein the slot is formed between two substantially parallel rims connected to a bottom of the U-shape.
8. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36, claim 1, wherein the applicator element has at least two substantially parallel slots.

9. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 8, the two walls defining a W-shaped cross-section, wherein the two slots are formed through bottoms of two concave portions of the W-shape.

10. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 8, the two walls defining a V-shaped cross-section, wherein the two slots are formed through either side of a bottom of a concave portion of the V-shape.

11. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 6, wherein the applicator element has a V-shaped cross-section, with each limb of the V-shape having an outwardly-directed concave face.

12. (Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36, claim 1, wherein the slot extends in a substantially rectilinear direction.

13. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36, claim 1, wherein the slot extends along a curve.

14. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 13, wherein said curve is concave.

15. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 13, wherein said curve is convex.

16. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 13, wherein the curve is substantially a portion of one of a circle and an ellipse.

17. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 13, wherein curve is an undulating curve.

18. (Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36, claim 1, wherein the slot has edges of substantially linear shape.

19. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36, claim 1, wherein the slot has serrated edges.

20. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 19, wherein the edges of the slot comprise two rows of teeth.

21. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 20, wherein the respective teeth of said rows are in registration with one another.

22. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 20, wherein the respective teeth of said rows are disposed in a staggered configuration.

23. (Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36, claim 1, wherein the slot is uninterrupted along its entire length.

24. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36, claim 1, wherein the slot is interrupted by at least one bridge of material interconnecting the two walls.

25. (Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36, claim 1, wherein the opening is uninterrupted.

26. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36, claim 1, wherein the opening is interrupted by at least one bridge of material interconnecting the two walls.

27. (Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36 claim 1 and including a stem, wherein the slot extends substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction of the stem.

28. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36 claim 1 and further comprising a stem, the slot extending substantially perpendicularly to a longitudinal direction of the stem.

29. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36, claim 1, wherein the applicator element is flocked, at least in part.

30. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 29, wherein the opening has at least one edge that is flocked at least in part.

31. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 30, wherein the opening has two substantially-parallel edges that are flocked.

32. (Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36, claim 1, wherein the walls are elastically deformable.

33. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36, claim 1, wherein the walls are made of a rigid material.

34. (Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36, claim 1, wherein the applicator element comprises at least one of a thermoplastic material, a thermosetting material, an elastomer, glass, wood and metal.

35. (Currently Amended) A device ~~An applicator~~ according to claim 36, claim 1, further comprising a handle member.

36. (Currently Amended) A packaging and applicator device for a substance, the device comprising:

a receptacle containing a substance ~~for application~~ that is configured to be applied to a portion of a human body; and

an applicator configured to apply a substance on a portion of the human body, the applicator comprising an applicator element comprising:

at least two walls forming therebetween a cavity suitable for retaining the substance;

at least one slot that extends along a longitudinal axis and through which the substance contained in said cavity is dispensed in order to be applied; and

at least one opening whereby the cavity opens to the outside, said opening comprising at least one portion with a width in a plane extending transversely to the slot that is greater than a width of the slot in the same plane~~according to claim 1.~~

37. (Original) A device according to claim 36, wherein said substance comprises a cosmetic.

38. (Original) A device according to claim 36, wherein the applicator is releasably secured to the receptacle.

39. (Original) A device according to claim 38, wherein the applicator is arranged to be capable of closing the receptacle in a leaktight manner.

40. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 38, further comprising a wiper.

41. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 40, wherein the wiper comprises a block of foam.

42. (Withdrawn) A device according to claim 36, wherein the applicator is permanently fixed to the receptacle and includes an internal channel that enables the substance contained in the receptacle to flow into the cavity of the applicator element.

43. (Currently Amended) A method for applying a substance to at least one of the body and the face comprising:

dispensing the substance to at least one of the body and the face with ~~the~~an applicator configured to apply said substance on a portion of the human body, the applicator comprising an applicator element comprising:

at least two walls forming therebetween a cavity suitable for retaining the substance;

at least one slot that extends along a longitudinal axis and through which the substance contained in said cavity is dispensed in order to be applied; and

at least one opening whereby the cavity opens to the outside, said opening comprising at least one portion with a width in a plane extending transversely to the slot that is greater than a width of the slot in the same plane as defined in claim 1.

44. (Original) The method according to claim 43, wherein the substance is applied to at least one of nails, eyelashes, eyebrows, skin and lips.

45. (Original) A method of applying a substance to a portion of the human body, the method comprising:

providing an applicator comprising:

at least two walls forming therebetween a cavity suitable for retaining the substance;

at least one slot that extends along a longitudinal axis and through which the substance contained in said cavity is dispensed in order to be applied; and

at least one opening whereby the cavity opens to the outside, said opening comprising at least one portion with a width in a plane extending transversely to the slot that is greater than a width of the slot in the same plane;

loading the cavity with substance; and

applying the substance to the portion of the human body via at least one of the slot and the opening.

46. (Original) A method according to claim 45, wherein the opening comprises at least one edge that is flocked at least in part.

47. (Original) A method according to claim 46, wherein the opening comprises two opposite edges that are flocked.

48. (Original) A device according to claim 36, wherein said substance comprises a care product.